

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-30. Cancelled

31. (Currently amended) A method for reducing β -cell dysfunction in an individual with a pancreatic disorder, wherein said dysfunction results in diabetes, comprising:

(i) introducing ~~a nucleic acid molecule encoding an inhibitor of IL-1 β~~ into a β cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein; and

(ii) transplanting the β cell of step (a) into the individual so as to reduce β cell dysfunction.

32. Cancelled.

33. Cancelled.

34. Cancelled.

35. (Currently amended) A method for reducing Fas mediated β -cell apoptosis in an individual with a pancreatic disorder, wherein said β -cell apoptosis results in diabetes, comprising:

(i) ~~introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding an inhibitor of Fas-mediated apoptosis~~ into a β cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein; and

(ii) transplanting the β cell of step (a) into the individual so as to reduce β cell apoptosis.

36. Cancelled.

37. Cancelled.

38. Cancelled.

39. (Currently amended) A mammalian β -cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ encoding and expressing an inhibitor of IL-1 β activity a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein, wherein the expression of the ~~inhibitor of IL-1 β activity~~ nucleic acid reduces said β cell dysfunction in an individual with a pancreatic disorder in which said dysfunction results in diabetes.

40. Cancelled.

41. Cancelled.
42. Cancelled.